



# Manchester Public Schools



## What's Today's News?

### Manchester Public Schools Welcomed 59 New Teachers to the District Since this Summer...



Manchester Public Schools welcomed 59 new teachers to the district since the summer of 2014, with 30 of them being brand new to the profession. This cohort of new teachers is enthusiastic, reflective and super, super busy! It's important to nurture our novices, so we do our best to provide opportunities for them to have a voice, share their experiences, and know where to go for support as they navigate their new careers. As part of their transition into teaching, the district, in collaboration with the State Department of Education provides them a 2-year mentorship program called TEAM. New teachers are paired with seasoned professionals in their buildings and they attend regularly scheduled workshops for the first year to discuss the core elements of teaching, share their ideas and feel less "alone".

Rebecca Redhead, a 7th grade teacher at Illing, said recently, "TEAM has given me another layer in my support system that helps me actively reflect on my daily progress as a new educator." Rebecca is not alone: in a new teacher survey conducted this Fall, 90% of new teachers said they felt supported by and connected to their grade-level teams or PLCs, and 100% of them said their buildings were warm and welcoming places for new staff members. Says Ashley

Okwuazi, a new Language Arts teacher at Illing, "My TEAM experience has been phenomenal! Between my mentor's availability and her experience in my content area, I feel confident in my path toward success! Not to mention, the district does a great job providing resources for new teachers to help alleviate our first year anxieties."

Mariel Frey, a 5th grade teacher at Washington said, "It is great to have a Mentor in my building to help me out when I need help problem solving something, or if I just need someone to vent to after a hard day!" Hard days for new teachers are plentiful – there is as much learning going on as there is teaching. With the demands of the profession being as high as they are today, it's healthy to say out loud to a trusted colleague that getting a handle on the curriculum or finding a work/life balance with planning or grading, or supporting the emotional needs of



kids can be tough some days. The devotion to the practice, students and families, however, is evident when checking in with the new members of our MPS family. We appreciate the hard work and we are thankful you're here!

